

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

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Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Officer force shaping

In an effort to right size and shape its future force, Air Force officials approved an annual board to evaluate officers for continued service at their three-year point.

The first Force Shaping Board is scheduled to meet April 3, 2006. The board will evaluate active duty line officers in the 2002 and 2003 accession year groups - except officers with 15 or more years of active service as of Sept. 29, 2006.

For more information about the board and volunteer separation opportunities, visit the AFPC Force Shaping Website, at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape.htm, or call AFPC at (800) 616-3775.

Deployed spouses

A free dinner for spouses and their children who have a deployed family member is 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday in the La Dolce Vita Dining Facility. There will be music and games and children can be entered into a Halloween costume contest. For more information, call Ext. 8206.

Closure

The Aviano Base Exchange food court is closed for repairs Monday. A barbecue from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. will be offered in front of the food court.

Aviano begins flu vaccinations

*Courtesy of
31st Aerospace
Medicine Squadron*

The 31st Medical Group has begun administering influenza vaccinations to active duty members and will begin vaccinating high-risk patients Nov. 1.

The plan is to inoculate family members throughout the season.

"The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus. It attacks the nose, throat and lungs," said Maj. Gretchen England, 31st Aerospace Medicine Squadron health promotion manager. "The flu usually comes on suddenly and symptoms can include high fever, headaches, tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, nasal congestion and body aches."

Major England said the virus is spread from person to person through coughs and sneezes.

"Symptoms can appear between one to four days from the virus entering the body and the virus can actually be spread one day before feeling sick," she said.



Photo by Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

Staff Sgt. Leonard Johnson, 31st Medical Operations Squadron immunization technician, vaccinates Brig. Gen. Robert Yates, 31st Fighter Wing commander, against the flu.

Adults can spread the virus three to seven days after onset of symptoms and children can pass the virus for longer than seven days.

"Despite having similar

symptoms, the flu is not the same as a cold," Major England said. "They are caused by different viruses and the flu comes on more

See Flu, Page 8 —

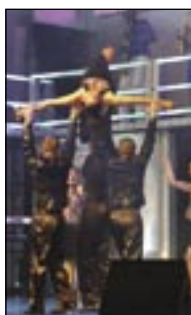
Road closure: The one-way road leading to the bowling center in Area One will be closed Nov. 2 for landscaping.

31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	725.9	482
	+302.2	+56

Information current as of Thursday.



Dance fever

Tops in Blue put on a spectacular show for Aviano Airmen highlighting musical eras from the 1940's to the 21st century.

- Page 10-11



Champions

The 31st Operations Support Squadron "Lions" won the base Intra-mural Soccer Championship Friday.

- Page 15



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31st Fighter Wing

Commander's Corner

By Brig. Gen. Robert Yates
31st Fighter Wing commander

World's Finest Warriors – we've had a busy week and I have a lot to talk about today. Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the heart of the Air Force – our spouses. Without their patience, their help, their support, their good humor, their fortitude, whether we are at Aviano or deployed abroad, we could never be the best at what we do.

In recognition of their support, the wing has organized a couple of events to honor our spouses. Wednesday the Aviano family teamed up to organize our third "Spouse it Up" activity. This time, it was a fall harvest pot luck picnic. Spouses gathered in the beautiful weather at Area D to share lunch and friendship. And in true fall tradition the picnic concluded with an exciting round of the other pig-skin sport – kickball. Thanks to all who made this such a success, and thanks to all our spouses for their support of our members in uniform and the mission!

Then Wednesday the services squadron is sponsoring a free dinner for spouses of deployed Airmen and Soldiers and their children. The meal will be from 6 to 8 p.m. at the La Dolce Vita dining facility in the flightline area of the base.

There will be good food, music, games and a Halloween costume contest for kids. If your husband or wife is deployed, you're invited to come out for a great meal with no dishes to wash and an evening out of the house. Commanders, supervisors, neighbors and friends of deployed warriors, please spread the word so nobody misses out on this opportunity. Our deployed members can perform up to "World's Finest" standard only if they are sure their

families are properly cared for. This initiative, among others, is one of the tools at your disposal to help look after these family members.

I also want to say thanks to the Tops in Blue performers. As always, they put on a class act. The hundreds of Airmen and our Italian friends who attended both shows felt the magic and the pride of the U.S. Air Force. However, it was members of our services team who made their performances possible and I want to recognize them and let them know how much I appreciate their hard work before, during and after the show.

Finally, the World's Finest hosted a team of Bulgarian officers this week. They came to see how we do business and they left favorably impressed by our organization and by your professionalism. Next week they will return the hospitality when some of our Airmen and aircraft deploy to a Bulgarian base for a cooperative exercise during which we'll train and fly with one of our newest NATO allies.

We will learn more about their military, see the progress they made since joining NATO three years ago and, best of all, a few of us will even be able to fly in their aircraft. During this exercise, we will truly be ambassadors in blue - keeping the fine edge on our combat capabilities while creating and strengthening relations with one of America's closest friends.

See y'all around the ranch and have a safe and enjoyable weekend. Remember, be proud of who you are and what you do and always strive to be the best...if it's worth doin,' it's worth winning'!



Brig. Gen. Robert Yates presents a wing coin to Airman 1st Class Jordan Cabelka after he spent the day as his shadow.

Aviano Airman of the Week

Name: Airman 1st Class Jordan Cabelka, Security Forces scheduler and trainer

Unit: 31st Security Forces

Hometown: Wichita Falls, Texas

Family: My wife of two years Kim

Hobbies: Playing sports and hanging out with my wife.

Why joined: To serve my country and the educational opportunities

Accomplishments: "Airman Cabelka was selected for shadowing General Yates because of his consistent display of hard work and motivation. He epitomizes the Air Force Core Values in today's Airman ranks," said Staff Sgt. Travis Aberle, 31st SFS. Airman Cabelka serves as the president of Defender Council and the Secretary for the Aviano Airmen's Advisory Council.

Look out for terrorism

*Courtesy of 31st Fighter Wing
Anti-terrorism
Force Protection office*

July 7, 2005 - London, England.
March 11, 2004 - Madrid, Spain.
These dates and locations have distinct meaning to almost everyone. They are etched into minds as days of horrible tragedy that have melded into this "thing" called the Global War on Terrorism.

Some may remember the 80's, which brought the American Embassy bombing in Beirut, Lebanon and the Marine Barracks in Beirut bombing, the 1996 Khobar Towers Saudi Arabia bombing, and the 2000 USS Cole bombing off the coast of Yemen. These incidents are all military related and could be attributed to conflicts or events, like the GWOT, specifically targeting military members.

"Each one was a well planned, well executed attack that caught us off guard, and each was a symbol of the resolve and determination of terrorist organizations," said Capt. Eric Horst, 31st Security Forces Squadron. "The most recent attacks have brought our awareness levels to new highs and, with stated threats towards the Italian government, we must take prudent measures to defeat these threats before they come to fruition."

Most of the Armed Forces Network commercials remind people to use caution, think force protection and remember safety when out and about. "How many of us truly apply what we have been taught when we go to places like Venice or Rome," Captain Horst asked. "Sure, guard your wallet

"You and your family don't need to move in tactical formation or use hand signals ... but use your senses."

*-Capt. Eric Horst
31st Security Forces Squadron*

or purse, watch out for pick-pockets and don't wear 'blatantly' American clothing, but do you look at who is sitting next to you on the bus or train? Do you check buildings for emergency exits? Do you ever think to yourself 'What if...?'"

All servicemembers have received preliminary Anti-Terrorism Force Protection training and should be practicing personal protective measures, Captain Horst said.

"Keep your 'signature' low by dressing appropriately and pay attention to everything going on around you," he said. "You and your family don't need to move in tactical formations or use hand signals at the market, but use your senses, look around, listen to the people near you and if you have that 'sixth sense,' listen to it! If everyone else is leaving an area, maybe you should follow their lead."

Captain Horst said while on base, people should not let their guard down and there is always a chance the base is being targeted.

"All of Aviano's first responders, from security forces to the medical group and civil engineers, exercise responses

to our worst nightmares," he said. "Regardless of the call, they respond at 100 percent every time. To them there are no exercise threats. They train this way to ensure rapid response, security of the area and protection for everyone in the Aviano community."

During exercise responses, things on base tend to be held up. Gates are closed, the affected area is blocked off and people on base are inconvenienced.

"It is vital to the protection of everyone involved that procedures are followed every time, and compliance with the responding force is mandatory during exercises," Captain Horst said. "If you are in the affected area, listen to the emergency response personnel - they are protecting you and your family."

Captain Horst encouraged everyone to report suspicious activity.

"Please don't walk away from something suspicious thinking 'Someone else will check on it,' or 'I have to go or I'll be late to work,'" he said. "Security forces or Carabinieri can't do anything unless you provide them with some key information."

Key information includes license plate numbers, physical descriptions of people or vehicles and circumstances surrounding the incident.

"The adage 'Force protection is everyone's job' has never been more true," Captain Horst added. "Each and every one of us plays a critical role in protecting our base, our homes and ourselves. If you see something that doesn't look right, do not hesitate to report it."

To report suspicious activity, call the Law Enforcement Desk at Ext. 7200 or 0434-30-7200.

Infobank: Looking for resources in the community? Visit the Infobank at <http://www.aviano.fsc.org>.

Deployed Triple Nickel leaves mark on Balad

By Capt. Mark Hanson
555th Expeditionary
Fighter Squadron

The Triple Nickel is currently deployed to Balad AB., Iraq and during their deployment, members of the 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and their spouses have helped wounded soldiers.

"It's awesome helping out the soldiers. Just talk-

ing to them and hearing their stories is incredible," said Capt. Scott Trageser, 555th EFS. "They are true heroes and I hope America realizes the sacrifices these young men and women are making for freedom and democracy."

The Airmen of the Triple Nickel have been donating food, current magazines, color televisions and have been visiting with wounded soldiers. Back at home,

their spouses are planning a trip to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's Fisher House in Germany to visit wounded soldiers.

In addition to helping the wounded, the Triple Nickel is also fixing-up their work area. During the past month, Triple Nickel members have been cleaning, fixing-up and painting and the squadron has helped preserve the building's legacy by cleaning a mural of

a MIG-23.

"Take pride where you reside," is something the Triple Nickel believes in, said Capt. Ethan Myers, 555th EFS. Captain Myers has been spending his time using the wood skills shop on base to build bookshelves, bulletin boards and other items around the squadron.

"It's the little things like a clean place to live that makes life better," he said.

Aviano Advisory council gives Airmen a voice

By Airman 1st Class

Sarah Gregory

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Aviano Airmen often have ideas for improving life on base but may feel unable to do anything due to their rank. One organization serves as an outlet for Airmen to voice their concerns.

"The purpose of the Aviano Airmen's Advisory Council is to act as a medium between Airmen and base leadership in order to foster better relations between them," said advisory council co-chair Senior Airman Wendy Day, 31st Communications Squadron. "The council's goal is to increase overall morale and quality of life and provides Airmen with a forum to bring comments, suggestions and concerns about base issues."

Although the council is open specifically to E-1 through E-4, anyone can attend meetings which are held the third Thursday of every month.

"We love the support from across the base. Usually, we have the command chief, a top three representative, someone from dorm management and a La Dolce Vita Dining Facility representative at our monthly meeting," explained Airman Day.

The AAAC provides all E-4s and below with a collective voice.

"I saw problems with certain things and decided instead of just complaining, I could see how I could change them," said council member Airman 1st Class Erik Vandermark, Det. 8, Air Force News. "Anyone can complain about things but that doesn't always solve problems. In the AAAC you can at least get your voice out there."

The council is also important to the community because it presents Airmen with a starting place for suggestions.

"If Airmen don't know where to go about concerns or suggestions, they can start with us and we'll get them an answer or work on the problem," said Airman Day. "It can be intimidating to bring up issues like the dining facility or the dormitory to your supervisor or higher-ups."

Although it's a new Aviano organization, the council has been working to get involved and make an impact.

"The AAAC has been volunteering for the Airman's Attic and with Airmen Against Drunk Driving," Airman Day said. "In the future, we also plan to give out scholarships."

In addition to quality of life improvements, the advisory council is planning

The Aviano Airmen's Advisory Council is hosting a free Halloween Movie Party Night Oct. 28. The movie, *Dawn of the Dead*, is being shown at 10 p.m. at the base theater. Tickets are being given away across base. After the movie, the party moves to La Bella Vista until 4 a.m. There will be music, a disc jockey, a Fear Factor Contest and a costume contest.

activities for Aviano's Airmen.

"We're doing a lot of things to make life easier for Airmen in the dorms such as the Airman All Nighter Halloween party Oct. 28," said Airman Vandermark. This gives us something to do during the weekend instead of the same routine."

Airman Day added that the movie night was the only event planned specifically for Airmen. "All the other Halloween events are geared toward military members with families and their younger dependents," she said. "We want to host more events designed for Airmen and the things we like to do."

Bazaar: La Bella Vista is hosting a holiday bazaar 3 to 7 p.m. Nov. 18, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 19 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 21.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore

Deployed Airman at work

Airman 1st Class Curtis Fluitt (front), 721st Aircraft Maintenance Operations Group, and Aviano member Airman 1st Class Dustin Keffer, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron, help clean up the H-6 housing area at Balad Air Base, Iraq, during a cleaning detail Oct. 8.

Uniform board meets this month

By Staff Sgt.

Julie Weckerlein

Air Force Print News

The Air Force Uniform Board meets Thursday and will again today in Washington D.C. to consider Air Force uniform improvements and standardization.

The board will address various uniform requirements, including the Airman's new battle dress uniform, and Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel.

The major commands have gathered and submitted their recommendations to the board for review.

The board will take a close look at the Air Force physical training uniform and determine its requirements, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos,

Air Force Uniform Board chief. She said the board is aware that clarification on the uniform has been an issue, and it will be a top priority for the board.

In addition, a women's uniform focus group met at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to discuss standardization of the women's uniform items.

"We pulsed the field for inputs from about 700 female commanders and first sergeants," Sergeant Athnos said. "The focus group whittled down the suggestions and they came up with about 30 recommendations to present to the board, ranging from footwear to accessories."

The board last met in June 2003, and determined cell phone use and scarves.

The Air Force will release the results from the October board within a few weeks of the meeting.

Project CHEER brightens holiday season

RAMSTEIN AB, Germany - More than 72,000 Airmen throughout the command participated in at least one of the 1,200 Project CHEER events in 2004 - 2005.

CHEER, which stands for Creating Hope, Energy, Enthusiasm and Recreation, runs from November through March annually to provide additional support to Airmen ages 18 - 25 during the winter months and holidays.

"There are hundreds of different activities bases offer as a part of their Project CHEER program," said Mandy Smith-Nethercott, USAF Project Cheer point of contact. "Each base is hosting a variety of fun activities for Airmen such as ski trips, fitness runs,

Armed Forces Entertainment concerts and movie nights."

The special interest program develops and implements special events and programming that provide Airmen with various opportunities to socialize and relax and enjoy themselves.

"Services is proud to play a big part of the program by offering several command programs such as X-box gaming challenges, pool shark tournaments, cosmic bowling and three-on-three basketball," she said.

During the holiday season, single and unaccompanied Airmen are treated to a variety of special events and programs designed especially for them.

More than 10,000 USAF Airmen enjoyed free movies, popcorn and a soda at Army, Air Force Exchange Service theatres during Project CHEER's Merry Movie Magic program over the holidays in 2004.

In 2005, Airmen can enjoy a free movie at a USAF movie theater on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

"We've had phenomenal support from sponsors this year," said Smith-Nethercott. "We have a lot of prizes to give away including Edelweiss Lodge and Resort trips, CDs and games, and Armed Forces Vacation Club certificates."

For more information on Project CHEER, call Ext. 5993

Financial counseling: The Family Support Center offers financial counseling. For more information, call Ext 5407.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Words of wisdom

Lt. Gen. Robert Bishop, U.S. Air Forces in Europe vice commander speaks to Airmen during a Project Connect breakfast Monday. The new USAF vice commander visited Aviano Sunday and Monday to familiarize himself with wing's mission.

Flu, from page 1

suddenly with more intense symptoms than a cold. Colds don't result in medical complications that can occur with the flu."

People waiting to be vaccinated should take precautions to prevent the flu.

Major England recommends people cover their nose and mouth when they cough, sneeze into a tissue if possible, frequently wash their hands with soap and water, stay away from others who are sick and avoid spreading germs by not touching eyes, mouth and nose. Those who catch the flu should stay home from work or school.

"Because the flu is caused by a virus antibiotics won't cure it," Major England said. "The best prevention measures and symptom relief is to drink plenty of liquids, get lots of rest and do not smoke or drink alcohol."

Major England said over-the-counter medications such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen for fever and body aches, throat lozenges or decongestants may help relieve flu symptoms. "Do not give aspirin to children with flu symptoms, especially fever," Major England advised.

Most people recover from the flu in one to two weeks, but complications can occur. "Those at high-risk for flu complications are people 65 years or older, pregnant women, children six to 24 months and their caregivers and individuals with chronic medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes and those taking aspirin therapy," Major England said.

Possible complications from the flu can include pneumonia, dehydration, bronchitis, sinus and ear infections.

Seek medical attention immediately if someone is experiencing difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, sudden dizziness, or confusion and if children are having trouble breathing, have a bluish skin color, not waking up or interacting, inconsolable, have a fever with a rash or are not drinking enough after the vaccination is administered.

For more information, call a primary care manager.

... And the k

**By Airman 1st Class
Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing**

More than 1,300 people came out for a rocking time as one of the oldest and most widely traveled entertainment groups of its kind performed Saturday and Sunday.

The Air Force Tops in Blue performed for Aviano during its worldwide "And the Beat Goes On" tour at Hangar One.

Since its first world tour in 1953, the group has performed throughout Western, Central and Eastern Europe, the Far East, Middle East, Central America, Southeast Asia, Canada and all 50 of the United States.



Photo by Airman Nathan Doza

Top: Staff Sgt. Joshua Umstead serenades an Aviano audience member during his Tops in Blue performance.

"The group's main purpose is to perform for military personnel and their families throughout the world," said Brian Colonna, 31st Services Squadron Tops in Blue coordinator. "However, the enormous popularity of the group has also made them America's goodwill ambassadors."

In order to make every show successful, the entertainment team travels with its own props, backdrops, instruments and costumes. Each TIB member works together to set up more than 40,000 pounds of staging, lighting, audio and special effects equipment required for each performance.

"Most people are blown away by the preparation that goes into the production," said Staff Sgt. Marcie Mascaro, Det. 8, Air Force News, who performed as a vocalist and dancer with the group during their 2002 "Spirit of America" tour. "A full staff works year-round to make the event memorable."

Although TIB brought in their own equipment, they needed help from the Aviano community.

"Aviano was responsible for providing a stage, electric and transportation support, lodging, food and other requirements ranging from medical to security," said Mr. Colonna. "This is a [31st Fighter] Wing event and truly requires many support agencies to work together to ensure the show is a success. The more than 530 hours contributed by the 31st Services Squadron, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron, 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron, 31st Security Forces Squadron

and 48 community volunteers made this tour stop a success."

Every year, TIB hosts a Worldwide Talent Contest at Lackland AFB, Texas, where contestants compete for awards and a place in the entertainment troupe. Contestants have voice and dance auditions and an interview with the Director of Air Force Entertainment, Mr. Tom Edwards.

The auditions are a production themselves and rely on assistance from previous performers.

"All former Tops in Blue members, call priors, are a part of a long history of Air Force entertainment," explained Sergeant Mascaro. "I am participating as an ambassador, representing the program and grooming new members."

Sergeant Mascaro's role in the audition is to coach the contestants and to tell them what to expect.

"I'll share my stories and try to tell them how tough the tour is, but they won't believe me," she laughed. "They will still want to tour even when they hear about sleeping for only two or three hours for several days in a row, lifting thousands of pounds of heavy equipment per day



Top: Staff Sgt. Fernando Alejandro sings "Happy Birthday" to Barbara Yates, wife of 31st Fighter Wing commander Brig. Gen. Robert Yates.

Left: Senior Airman Jamaal Solomon performs Saturday evening.

beat goes on



plus putting our equipment on pallets in negative 20 degree weather. So I'm there to make sure they want to be a part of the tour as bad as I did."

Although the tour is demanding, it can also be an unforgettable experience.

"It's a tough tour around the world; definitely not a free ticket. Crew members earn their spot on the tour on a daily basis," said Sergeant Mascaro. "The best part is the lifelong friendships that develop after spending everyday with the same people for almost a year."

Sergeant Mascaro said the relationships formed during a tour are the ones that last a lifetime.

"You know your team so well that you can feel when someone is having a bad day and you know how to make them smile," she said. "Tears, joy, laughter and pain - it's all there. The experience is very intimate and special. I love my tour mates like a family."

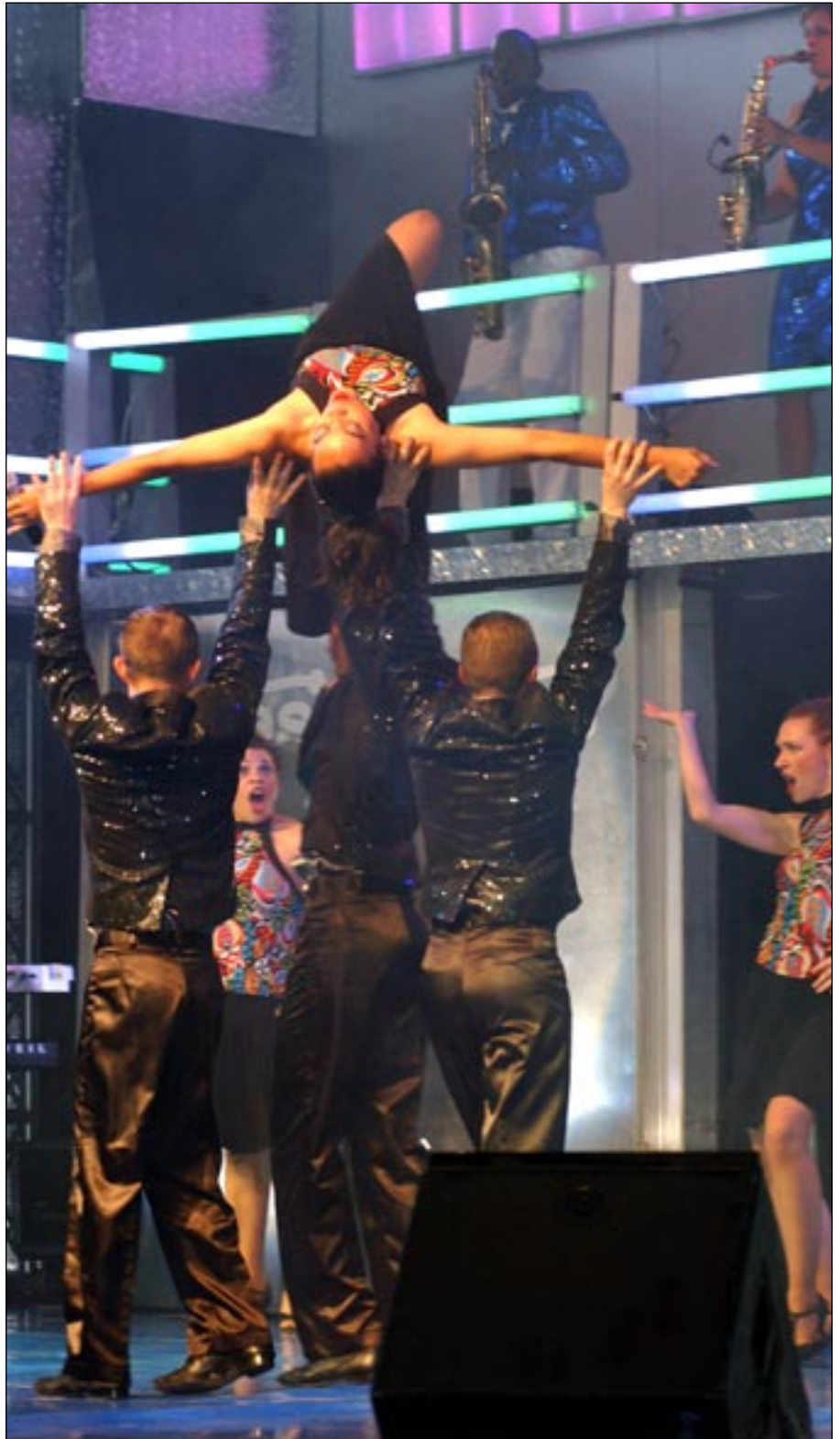
Anyone with a talent can audition for TIB; they are always looking for singers, dancers, musicians, comedians and technicians.

Practice is key to preparing for auditions Sergeant Mascaro said.

"If you are a singer, take vocal lessons. If you are a technician, volunteer at the base or local theater. If you play an instrument, take it with you everywhere and practice until you can't play one more note ... and then practice even more," she said.

Performing with TIB is also a way for Airmen to learn about Air Force values.

"This is a great special duty assignment. You become a part of something bigger than yourself," said Sergeant Mascaro. "One person can not set up and put on a show by themselves. From lighting and audio to harmony and choreography, you truly learn the value of teamwork."



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Top center: Capt. William Middleswart performs the opening song during the Tops in Blue performance Saturday night.

Above: Tops in Blue performances are made up of dancers, singers, musicians and comedians.

Theater

The Aviano Community Theater and the Aviano High School Drama club presents the comedy "Greater Tuna," 7 p.m. today and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in the high school theater. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

WIC

Families are invited for a nutritious Halloween treat from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Oct. 31 in the Women, Infants, Children Overseas office, Bldg. 1472 in Area F, next to Banca Popolare. Children are encouraged to wear their costumes. For more information, call Ext. 7473.

Vet clinic

The veterinary clinic will be closed Oct. 31. For more information, call Ext. 8485.

Housing closure

The Housing Management Office and the Furnishing Management Office is closed Nov. 1.

Thrift Shop

The Aviano Thrift Shop is hosting a yard sale from 8 a.m. to noon Nov. 5 in the high school multi-purpose room. The thrift shop is located behind the chapel in Area One. For more information or to rent a table, call Ext. 5428 or 349-470-9262.

Special duty

The Air Education and Training Command special-duty assignment team is hosting a briefing at 8:30 a.m. Nov. 7 in the base theater for Airmen interested in becoming a recruiter, military training instructor, military training leader, technical training instructor or professional military education instructor. The briefing is opened to Airman 1st Classes who have two years in service through master sergeants with less than 17 years total active federal military service.

Future Fair

The Aviano High School is hosting a Future Fair from

5 to 7 p.m. Nov. 15. The fair focuses on education and training beyond high school and information tables will be setup for students and parents to browse.

The school also needs community members who can talk to students about their training and careers. Those interested must contact their school and ask to send college fair materials as soon as possible. For more information or to volunteer as a representative, call Cheryl Owen at Ext. 5919 or e-mail cheryl.owen@eu.dodea.edu.

Native American heritage

November is Native American Heritage month. Events for the month include a kick-off with native display and free fry bread Nov. 1 at the base exchange, Great Plains Native American Dancers Nov. 16 at noon at the Base Exchange and 6 p.m. at the Community Center, and a Native American story hour and crafts Nov. 21 in the Base Library. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Fawn Runs After at Ext. 4418 or Senior Airman Matt Frerichs at Ext. 7750.

Free oil change

Spouses of members deployed or TDY for more than 30 days are eligible for a free oil change on their primary vehicle. To receive the oil change, take a copy of their orders to the family support center and receive a certificate. Certificates must be used within one month of the date of issue. For more information, call Ext. 5598.

PCS website

The Air Force Move Web site "People First" recently expanded its services. A ground transportation locator has been added so travelers can find the nearest commercial airport and local transportation between the installation and the airport. The site also has a kennel locator for those traveling with pets.

Career broadening

The Air Force Senior

Leader management office is soliciting enthusiastic, mature and professional applicants with solid records of performance, good attitude, interpersonal and culinary skills to fill enlisted aide openings. Applicants must be a second term or career Airman to apply. For more information, visit <https://www.dp.hy.af.mil/afslmo/afslmoe/inde.htm>.

Financial counseling

Aviano's Family Support Center provides one-on-one financial counseling. Call Ext. 5407 for an appointment or information on the Thrift Savings Plan, retirement accounts, Roth IRAs and other financial concerns.

Automated system

New telephone systems will be in place at the 31st Medical Group by the end of October. The new system will offer appointment reminders and 24-hour prescription refill ordering. The automated appointment reminder system will contact beneficiaries from one to three days prior to their scheduled appointment.

The new system does not apply to appointments outside of the 31st MDG. Patient phone numbers must be accurate in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. People needing to update their phone numbers and address information should contact the TRICARE Service Center at Ext. 5133 or visit <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/index.jsp> or visit the military personnel flight.

To schedule a medical appointment, call Ext. 5000 or 0434-30-5000. To access the 24-hour automated pharmacy system, call Ext. 8165 or 0434-30-8165.

Sign Language

People of all ages interested in learning American Sign Language, helping to teach or in keeping up with the language, can call Francisco Sierra III at 0434-553249 or e-mail him at eat-ing_firedog@yahoo.com.

Reel Times

Today, 5 p.m. - "Valiant" Rated G - A lowly wood pigeon becomes a hero in Great Britain's Royal Air Force Homing Pigeon Service during World War II. Animated

Today, 8 p.m. - "The Transporter 2" Rated PG-13 - A retired ex-special forces operative makes a living driving for a wealthy family. He's a huge favorite with their two small boys, but when the kids are kidnapped and injected with a potentially fatal virus, he defies the FBI and works to get the boys to safety and discovers the kidnappers-master plan. Starring: Jason Statham, Alessandro Gassmann

Saturday, 2 p.m. - "Valiant" Rated G

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "Four Brothers" Rated R - After their adoptive mother is murdered, four brothers reunite to track down her killer. Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Andre Benjamin

Sunday, 2 p.m. - "Valiant" Rated G

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "The Transporter 2" Rated PG-13

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "Four Brothers" Rated R

Thursday, 7 p.m. - "The Transporter 2" Rated PG-13

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Fly Bys

Local area events

Through October - A butterfly exhibit in Bordano. Visit www.cosetur.com for more information.

Through October - The Chestnut Festival takes place in Mezzomonte di Polcenigo.

Through Oct. 28 - The white truffle festival in Alba. These mushrooms are more costly by weight than gold.

Saturday - Sunday - The "Fruits, Water and Castles" fall exhibit is at the Castle Park of Strassoldo. For more information, visit www.castellodistrassoldo.it.

Sunday - Monday - The "Festa della Zucca" or the Pumpkin Festival takes place in Venzone.

Safe traveling tips

When traveling around Europe, remember to avoid carrying handbags, fanny packs and outside pockets; they are easy targets for theft.

Leave a copy of your itinerary with family or friends in case of an emergency.

Become familiar with local laws and customs of the countries you are visiting.

To avoid being a target of crime, try not to wear conspicuous clothing and expensive jewelry and do not carry excessive amounts of money or unnecessary credit cards.

Visit <http://travel.state.gov> for more travel tips and to get the latest travel advisories.

Jewish ghetto offers a glimpse into past

By 1st Lt. Jennifer Ferrau
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tucked away in the labyrinth of streets that make up Venice is the world's oldest ghetto, the Jewish Ghetto.

The first Jews weren't allowed to settle in Venice until 1385, when Venice was warring against Chioggia and needed money from Jewish moneylenders. At this time, Jews were allowed to have permanent resident permits.

Racism was prevalent and in 1516, Venice's ruling council ordered all the Jews to move into a getti, or foundry.

The ghetto gates were locked in the evenings and restrictions were placed on Jewish activities. The Jews were only allowed to operate pawn shops, lend money, practice medicine and trade in textile. The Jews had to wear identifying marks, similar to those worn later during World War II; men wore a yellow circle on their jackets and women wore a yellow scarf.

During World War II, the neighborhood was searched by Nazis specially trained in looking for Jews and a large portion of the population was sent to labor and concentration camps.

Today the inhabitants of the former ghetto include people other than Jews, but the neighborhood is still steeped in the Jewish tradition.

Jewish places of worship were secretly built throughout the ghetto, disguised as apartments, to avoid detection by the Magistrature of the Jews. There are five major scolo, or synagogues, which form a unique set because they have survived largely intact. The oldest, the Scola Tedesca, was founded in 1528. Three years later, the Scola Canton was founded; in 1575 the Scola Italiana was founded. These three scolo are interconnected by passageways, stairs and steps.

Other scolo were also founded and several are open throughout the year for tours. Men must wear traditional Jewish headwear, the yarmulke, while they are in the synagogues and cameras and cell phones are not permitted.

The synagogue furnishings include several ornate crowns. These crowns adorned the



Courtesy photo

One of several memorial plaques along the street in the Jewish quarter of Venice.

scrolls of the law, the Torah. Most of them were made by Venetian goldsmiths from the 17th to 19th centuries and they are engraved with the Tables of the Law, fire and other motifs close to the Jewish tradition. Several pointers, or yads, are also on display. The yads were used because the Jews feel it's important be able to read the Holy Scriptures without touching it.

Especially interesting are the marriage contracts, or ketubah, on display. Translations of the contracts, originally written in Aramaic, describe the roles and responsibilities of both the husband and wife.

Also located in the ghetto, and still inhabited today, is the rest home. This building originally opened in 1844 as a house of industry and in 1890 was turned into a home for the poor. Eventually, the home became a home for the elderly. It is often open to groups of students or other tourists who wish to enjoy an authentic Kosher meal.

There are several shops selling items such as Venetian glass mezzuzahs. Mezzuzahs are nailed to the outside of front doors and it's customary to touch it when entering a house as a reminder of God's presence there. Transcribed portions of the Torah can also be found.

The beauty of the Jewish Ghetto is, ironically, the freedom to walk through its streets and sit in the campo. (Information provided by the Jewish Ghetto Organization)

Air Force travel online: Visit www.aftravelonline.com for information on airplane and train tickets and hotel reservations.



Courtesy photo

The **Carinthian** region in Austria is a winter retreat with more than 200 lakes for ice skating and the Alps for skiing and snowboarding as well as hot thermal springs.

Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday - Pisa and Da Vinci Museums
- Saturday - Guided Salzburg and the Sound of Music tour
- Oct. 29 - Special Gardaland Amusement Park for Halloween
- Oct. 29 - Special Halloween Medieval Banquet in Carinthia Region, Austria

• Nov. 12-13 - Wine tasting in Tuscany

• Nov. 25-28- Thanksgiving in Budapest, Hungary

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026, for more information.

31st OSS Lions win base intramural championship

By Senior Airman
Colleen Wronek

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 31st Operations Support Squadron Lions won the base Intramural Soccer Championship Friday with a 3 to 1 win over the 31st Communications Squadron.

During the regular season, the Lions dominated with eight wins and took the number one seat in qualifying for the playoffs.

"Winning the championship is the best reward for teamwork, dedication and a bunch of great guys playing their hearts out," said Metodi Roulev, Lions coach.

Due to busy work schedules, the Lions didn't have time to practice before the games. They played 12 games - nine in the regular season and three in the playoffs and won a total of 10 games and the championship.

"Our team's best quality is our dedication," Roulev said. "Thanks to all my teammates for their hard work."

People interested in joining an intramural sports team can call their squadron sports representative or call the Dragon Fitness Center at Ext. 7459.



Photos by Clara Roulev

Metodi Roulev, Lions coach, attempts to steal the ball during Aviano's soccer regular season. The 31st Operations Support Squadron team came in first during the regular season and the play-offs.



The Lions attempt to make a goal during the base Intramural Soccer Championship Friday.

Fly Bys

Basketball

People interested in participating in the 2005-2006 Men's and Women's varsity basketball teams can contact Neville Besignach or Robby England at the Area Two fitness center or call Ext. 7574.

Bowling

Tryouts for the Aviano Bowling team are at 9 a.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Tryouts consist of 12 games over the two days, with the highest four averages being placed on the base team. For more information, call Ext. 8642.

Fitness instructors

The Dragon Fitness Center is seeking certified fitness instructors. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

Step aerobics

Step aerobic classes are held from 7 to 8 a.m. Mondays through Fridays in the Dragon Fitness center. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

Yoga

Yoga classes are held from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Dragon Fitness center. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

Get golfing

A moonlight golf outing is scheduled for 6 to 10:30 p.m. Oct. 28. The \$18 entry fee includes a steak dinner and use of glow-in-the-dark golf balls. For more information on these events, or to sign up, call Ext. 7386.

Referees needed

The Aviano Officials Association is looking for high school football and volleyball officials for the upcoming season. Interested participants may call Joe Russo at 348-252-4885 or Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Smith at Ext. 4978.

UPCLOSE



and personal with Aviano's best

Tech. Sgt. Keisha Piper, 31st Services Squadron, was recently selected for the Chief's Choice award by Chief Master Sgt. Michael Schreck because she is "very knowledgeable in her duties and responsibilities and she displays exceptional customer service attitude ... she's approachable, gives clear, concise answers and is courteous and proficient." Sergeant Piper demonstrated professionalism in handling questions regarding contingency dormitory requirements. She also provided support in bedding down Utah Air National Guardsmen on TDY in support of the 603rd Air Control Squadron preparing for Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation 7/8. "Sergeant Piper is a fantastic NCO and definitely a team player," said Senior Master Sgt. Arleen Heath, 603rd ACS.

Q: What is your job title and what do you do?

A: I am the NCO in-charge of education and training. I manage the formal, upgrade and auxiliary training program for 31st SVS.

Q: What do you like best about your job?

A: Giving the newcomer's orientation to new employees in my unit. I enjoy giving a good "first impression" of our unit to its newest members.

Q: Why did you enlist in the Air Force?

A: To serve my country and be a part of something important.

Q: What advice do you have for the Air Force's newest recruit?

A: Be positive. Always look for ways to improve your work environment/job that way you can make things better for the next person that works there.

Q: What was your reaction when you learned you'd be stationed at Aviano?

A: I was very excited to learn I would be stationed

here. I really enjoy traveling throughout this country and this assignment is everything I thought it would be.

Q: Describe the perfect day for you?

Any type of traveling, like touring Vatican City. It's a beautiful place!

Q: How do you recover from a hard day at work?

A: I enjoy reading, traveling, and going to church. (Compiled by Airman 1st Class Sarah Gregory, 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs.)



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send kudos to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil with the subject line "Kudos." Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

Aviano's Hidden Heroes



Tech. Sgt. Kim Mann, 31st Fighter Wing, organized the Air Force Sergeant's Association POW/MIA retreat ceremony. Involved in many chapel activities, Sergeant Mann sings in the choir and organizes fellowship meetings. Although a Master Sergeant select, Sergeant Mann remains an active part of Aviano's 5/6 Association. She was key in assisting in the development of the new marking pamphlet. "Sergeant Mann is a behind the scenes volunteer who is always making contributions to our community," said Kristy Lanham, Aviano's Family Support Center volunteer coordinator.

Kudos: Recognizing Those Who Serve

The Air Force Sergeant's Association is happy to announce the winners of Term 1 Scholarship: Vel Sylvester, Staff Sgt. Wayne Taylor and Airman 1st Class Vieri Tenuta. Congratulations for a job well done.

Congratulations to the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron for winning the Maj. Gen. Clifton D. Wright Award for outstanding operations flight of the year.

Congratulations to the Small Unit Third Quarter Award winners: Capt. Eric Cuebas, 31st Comproller Squadron; Master Sgt. Warren Chesebro, 31st Fighter Wing; Tech. Sgt. Robert Schultz, 724th Air Mobility Squadron; Airman 1st Class Jason Armstrong, Det. 8, Air Force News; Marco Tomasini, 724th AMS; Diletta Tagliariol, 31st CPTS; Lia Scandola, 31st FW and Dawn Urban, 31st CPTS.